

Message Text

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ACTION OES-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 L-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /018 W

----- 104944

R 241004Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4398

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN JA

SUBJ: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION - OVERALL REVIEW

1. SCICOUNS HAS BEEN INFORMED "INFORMALLY" BY FONOFF (MATSUURA) OF MAIN POINTS OF EXPECTED GOJ RESPONSE TO US PROPOSALS ON UNDERTAKING OVERALL REVIEW OF COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RELATIONS. FONOFF HOPES TO HAVE FINAL INTERAGENCY APPROVAL WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS, AFTER WHICH FORMAL RESPONSE WILL BE PROVIDED EMBASSY.

2. GOJ RESPONSE WILL INDICATE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH US PROPOSALS ON SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF REVIEW, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT PANEL SHOULD DEVELOP DETAILS ON ITS OWN. MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTED BY MATSUURA IS THAT GOJ HAS NOW SELECTED ITS THREE 'OUTSIDE EXPERTS'. THEIR NAMES, WHICH HE ASKED BE HELD IN CLOSE CONFIDENCE PENDING COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES OF THEIR APPOINTMENT ARE:

A. DR. SEIJI KAYA, PRESIDENT, JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE, FORMER PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO, AND PERHAPS JAPAN'S LEADING "ELDER STATESMAN" OF SCIENCE.

B. DR. SABURO OKITA, ECONOMIST, PRESIDENT, JAPAN OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION FUND, LEADING FURUROLOGIST AND HIGHLY REGARDED SCIENCE POLICY SPOKESMAN.

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C. DR. TATSUOKI MIYAJIMA, PHYSICIST, MEMBER JAPAN ATOMIC

ENERGY COMMISSION, AND FORMER PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND PRESIDENT, TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, REGARDED AS COMPETENT SCIENTIST AND ADMINISTRATOR.

3. AS DEPT WILL RECOGNIZE, KAYA AND MIYAJIMA WOULD HARDLY FIT US DEFINITION OF "OUTSIDE" EXPERT, SINCE KAYA, AS PRESIDENT OF JSPS HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT OF US-JAPAN COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM, WHILE MIYAJIMA HAS SIMILAR DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO COOPERATIVE ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM. NEVERTHELESS, THESE ARE HIGH LEVEL AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED DESIGNEES, AND, ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE REVIEW DESPITE THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH TWO OF PROGRAMS UNDER REVIEW.

4. REMAINING JAPANESE PANEL MEMBERS WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES, AT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR COUNSELLOR LEVEL (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY) OF SIX MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES: FOREIGN MINISTRY, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE, MITI, STA, AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. FOUR OTHER MINISTRIES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ON EX-OFFICIO, PART-TIME BASIS. THESE ARE AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORT, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND CONSTRUCTION. WHILE FONOFF WILL NOT FORMALLY OBJECT TO MUCH LARGER US AGENCY REPRESENTATION ON PANEL (DEPT HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OF 13 AGENCIES WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED), THEY WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO REDUCING NUMBER OF FULL MEMBERS BY ASSIGNING AGENCIES WITH ONLY MARGINAL INTEREST AS PART-TIME EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

5. MAIN PROBLEM NOW BEING FACED BY FONOFF IN GEARING UP FOR REVIEW IS THAT OF LOCATING JAPANESE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. THEY RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TO SUCCESS OR REVIEW, BUT SO FAR HAVE NO SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

6. DESPITE THIS PROBLEM, FONOFF STILL HOPES TO BE READY FOR FIRST MEETING IN TOKYO IN FIRST PART OF DECEMBER, OR EARLY JANUARY. IN EMBASSY VIEW, FIRST MEETING SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT DURATION TO ALLOW REAL EXPOSURE OF US PANELISTS TO JAPANESE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, AS WELL AS AMPLE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. THUS, JANUARY MEETING MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO A DECEMBER VISIT COMPRESSED BY HOLIDAY SEASON. DEPT WILL BE ADVISED AS MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAPANESE PROGRESS ON PREPARING FOR REVIEW BECOMES AVAILABLE.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO13860
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740304-0024
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741018/aaaaaoza.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION - OVERALL REVIEW
TAGS: TGEN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005